

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04814 260308Z

63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /093 W

----- 126345

R 260219Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3743

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 4814

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS ON JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

REF: CANBERRA 4610

1. SENATE COMPLETED PROCESS OF REJECTING SIX BILLS WHICH HAS BEEN CAUSE OF DOUBLE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT, BY VOTING DOWN PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AUTHORITY FOR THE THIRD TIME ON JULY 24. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM SAW GOVERNOR GENERAL JULY 25, PRESUMABLY ON SUBJECT OF ARRANGING FOR JOINT SITTING OF SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THOUGH NO STATEMENT ISSUED. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TOLD PRESS PRIME MINISTER WOULD SEE GOVERNOR GENERAL AGAIN ON JULY 30, FOLLOWING WHICH ANNOUNCEMENT PRESUMABLY WILL BE MADE ON JOINT SITTING UNDER SECTION 57 OF CONSTITUTION. ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE BY GOVERNOR GENERAL, SINCE IT IS HE WHO CONVENES JOINT SITTING.

2. MEMBER OF LABOR CAUCUS HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT GOVERNMENT IS TENTATIVELY PLANNING ON HOLDING JOINT SITTING AUGUST 6-7, WITH SESSION POSSIBLY CONTINUING ON AUGUST 8. THERE IS STILL NO BI-PARTISAN AGREEMENT ON RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR HOLDING JOINT SITTING,
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PAGE 02 CANBER 04814 260308Z

WHICH HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY OCCURED SINCE CONSTITUTION

ENTERED INTO EFFECT IN 1900.

3. PARLIAMENT WILL ADJOURN AT CONCLUSION OF JOINT
SITTING UNTIL BUDGET SESSION IN LATTER PART OF
SEPTEMBER.
HARROP

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NNN

Message Attributes

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